

ELINOR'S TOWN - PILOT EPISODE "A"

"THE SEED OF AN IDEA"

Written by

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ELINOR'S TOWN - PILOT EPISODE "A"

1	EXT. ELINOR'S SCHOOL -- DAY, DAY 1	1
	Title Card: "The Seed Of An Idea"	
	It's a crisp, clear morning in the forest. We see Elinor's school, buried among trees and surrounded by flowers and buzzing insects. We close in on a window and into...	
2	INT. ELINOR'S CLASSROOM -- DAY, CONTINUOUS	2
	The room is bright and colorful. ELINOR walks in wearing her backpack, smiling and hopping. She is excited for her day at school! As she walks, she passes other kids coming in and putting their things in their cubbyholes:	
	Elinor passes Ashley Bear, who undoes her hook and loop (i.e. "Velcro") boot straps. <i>Skrrrrrtch</i> . Elinor's ears perk up at that as she walks by.	
	Next, Medhi Fox opens his backpack. <i>Skrrrrrtch</i> . Elinor's eyebrows jump.	
	Javier Moose undoes the velcro fasteners on his jacket. <i>Skrrrrrtch</i> . Elinor takes notice.	
	Elinor arrives at her cubby. Her friends HAZEL and ARI come to greet her.	
1	HAZEL	1
	Hi, Elinor!	
2	ELINOR	2
	Hi, Hazel! Hi, Ari!	
	Ari holds out his hand.	
3	ARI	3
	Check THIS out!	
	On his wrist is an oversized kid's watch.	
4	ARI (CONT'D)	4
	I have a new watch!	
5	ELINOR	5
	Ooohh...	
6	HAZEL	6
	(Smiling) He's been showing it to everyone this morning.	

7 ARI 7
My parents got it for me. They said
it's to help me stay on track.
Watch this!

Ari presses a button on the watch.

8 WATCH ALARM 8

Time to go to school!

Eat your vegetables!

Put your pants on!

Elinor and Hazel look at each other.

9 ARI 9
Heh, sometimes I forget.

The kids giggle.

10 ARI (CONT'D) 10
Want to see my favorite part?

The watch strap!

Ari opens and closes the hook and loop strap on his watch a few times. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's eyes open wide.

11 ELINOR 11
Oooohhh...

At that moment, MS. MOLE, their teacher, calls them to order.

12 MS. MOLE 12
Ok, class, time to find our places!

All the kids move to the rug at the center of the room. Ms. Mole stands next to her desk.

13 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 13
Now, where is my book?

She feels around on her desk and picks up a carrot.

14 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 14
Ah ha! Is this it?

15 CLASS (ALL TOGETHER) 15
No! / That's not it! / That's a
carrot!

Ms. Mole gives a sly smile and sniffs the carrot.

16 MS. MOLE 16
Oops! You're right!

She hunts around on the desk with her hands, picks up an eraser.

17 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 17
Ok. This MUST be it.

18 CLASS 18
No! / That's an eraser! / That's
not a book!

Ms. Mole smiles again, sniffs it. She puts it down and picks up a book.

19 MS. MOLE 19
Is THIS it?!

20 CLASS 20
Yes! (Laughing)

21 MS. MOLE 21
Noooooow we are ready for the
lesson!

Ms. Mole opens the book. There's a picture of a spiky seed on it.

22 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 22
Today we are going to learn
about... (dramatically) Nature's
Ideas!

All of the kids are paying rapt attention, except for Elinor, who is looking at the watch on Ari's wrist.

23 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 23
Nature has solved a lot of
different kinds of problems and is
full of useful ideas. For example--

She is interrupted by a sudden *Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the picture book to look, and the noise stops. She scans the group of kids. Elinor is smiling innocently. After a beat, Ms. Mole turns back to her book. Elinor reaches for the watch again.

24 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 24
Ahem. Nature is full of useful
ideas, like --

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the book to look, and the sound stops again. The kids look at each other. Everyone is puzzled!

25 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 25
(Slowly returning to book)
Nature is full of ideas, like --

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. This time she turns around very quickly. We see Elinor caught in the act of pulling on Ari's watch strap.

26 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 26
Elinor...

27 ELINOR 27
Ms. Mole!! This strap is sooo cool!

Elinor stands up and holds up Ari's watch with Ari still attached to it.

28 ELINOR (CONT'D) 28
You can open it and close it and
open it and close it...

She opens and closes the strap several times.

29 ELINOR (CONT'D) 29
It's like tape, 'cause it sticks
together. But if you touch it, it's
not sticky!

Elinor puts her finger on it and shows it doesn't stick to the hook and loop.

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30                                CLASS                                30
                                Oooohhh...

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31 ELINOR 31
That is SO interesting!
And look! It's on all sorts of
things!

Elinor drags Ari over to the cubby area.

32 ELINOR (CONT'D) 32
It keeps Ashley's boots closed...

She pulls the watch strap (and Ari) down to compare it to Ashley's boots.

33 ELINOR (CONT'D) 33
It keeps Mehdi's backpack closed...

She drags Ari over to Mehdi's backpack and opens and closes the backpack twice.

34 ELINOR (CONT'D) 34
And it's on Javier's coat!

Elinor holds the watch up to the coat. Hazel joins them.

35 HAZEL 35
Whoa, it's on everything!

Hazel undoes the watch band and a relieved Ari hits the floor.

36 ELINOR 36
But I never thought about it
before. I wonder how it works?

Ms. Mole opens her mouth to say something, but at that moment the bell rings.

37 MS. MOLE 37
I guess it's time for recess!

All the kids cheer and stampede out the door, except for Elinor, Hazel and Ari. They sit on the rug and look at the strap closely. They fixate on the small patch of "hook" fabric on one end (the rest of the strap is made out of the fuzzy "loop" fabric).

38 ELINOR 38
 Hmm.... How can it stick together
 without BEING sticky?

Ari pokes at the patch of "hook" fabric with his finger.

39 ARI 39
Yeah, why does it stick to SOME
things, but not others?

He tries to stick it to a nearby chair, but nothing happens.

40 HAZEL 40
Hmm, I have an idea... Let's make a
list of what it DOES and DOESN'T
stick to. Maybe that will help us
figure out how it works.

41 ELINOR 41
Yeah, let's make some OBSERVATIONS!

Hazel grabs a piece of paper and draws a big T. She labels one side of it with a check mark and the other with an "X."

42 HAZEL 42
Chair: no. (She doodles a chair on
the "X" column)

They try to stick the patch to the carpet.

43 ELINOR 43
Carpet: yes, it sticks!

Hazel doodles a little carpet on the check mark side. They
try more locations. Hazel records the observation each time.

44 ELINOR (CONT'D) 44
Chalkboard: no!

45 ELINOR (CONT'D) 45
Ari's sweater: yes!

46 ELINOR (CONT'D) 46
Hazel's trunk: no!

Hazel raises her eyebrows, but makes a doodle.

47 ARI 47
So it sticks to my sweater and the
rug, and... nothing else.

48 ELINOR 48
(Scratching her head) Hmmm...

They pause and think.

49 HAZEL 49
We could try some things outside?

50 ELINOR 50
Yeah, we need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

The kids go out the door. Elinor looks excited about their
project and gives a hop or two. Hazel is twirling her trunk
and looking over her notes.

3 EXT. THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. -- DAY, CONTINUOUS 3

There are kids playing on the swings and slides as Elinor,
Hazel and Ari come outside.

51 ELINOR 51
Ooh, let's try that tree!

Elinor takes the watch and bounces over to a tree. She tries
to stick the strap to the tree.

52 ELINOR (CONT'D) 52
 Tree: no.

Hazel records it. As they explore, they sing a ditty:

53 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI 53
 (Singing)
 We want to solve the mystery,
 Of how this sticks so stickily.
 We're going to try it here,
 And there,
 And everywhere!
 Into the woods and on the trees,
 We follow our curiosity!

As they sing, they begin in the playground but wander into the bushes and trees nearby. They are dancing a bit and trying the strap on various things: bushes (no), acorns (no), rocks (no), etc.

4 EXT. CLEARING -- DAY 4

They emerge from some bushes and come to a small clearing, gathering around Hazel's list. Ari has some twigs and seed burrs stuck to his clothes and fur.

54 HAZEL 54
 The strap sticks to sweaters and
 rugs, but not anything else.

55 ARI 55
 Hmm, I don't see how it works. Do
 you guys?

The kids shake their heads. They think for a moment: Elinor's ears cross or wiggle; Hazel scratches her head with the crayon, which she holds with her trunk. Ari notices the seed burrs stuck to him and tries to shake them off.

56 ARI (CONT'D) 56
 Ack!

He goes through a few shakes and contortions, but the seed burrs don't come off. He gets a little alarmed.

57 ARI (CONT'D) 57
 Ah! These seeds won't come off!

Elinor goes over and grabs one of the seed burrs and pulls it off. It makes a small *skrrrrrtch* sound. Ari sighs in relief.

58 ARI (CONT'D) 58
 Thanks!

Elinor sticks it back on Ari and pulls it again. *Skrrrtch*. Her eyes go wide.

59 ARI (CONT'D) 59

Hey!

60 ELINOR 60
Look, this seed sticks to Ari's
sweater and it makes the same sound
as the watch strap!

I wonder...

Elinor takes the seed and sticks it to one side of the watch strap and then the other. It sticks to the fuzzy side (*Skrrrtch*).

61 ARI 61
Oh, THAT is interesting!

62 HAZEL 62
The seed sticks to Ari the same way
it sticks to the strap!

63 ELINOR 63
(Examining a seed burr)
What is this little seed?

The kids crowd together and look really closely at the seed. They see that the seed has lots of little hooks on it.

64 ARI 64
Look at all those little hooks.

They follow the seed closely as they stick it to Ari's sweater. They see the little hooks catch on the loops in the fabric, and when they pull it, the hooks let go, making a small *skrrrrrtch* sound.

65 ELINOR 65
It sticks because the little hooks
grab the fuzziness of the sweater.
Hmmm...

They look really closely now at the patch of "hooks" fabric on the watch strap.

66 ELINOR (CONT'D) 66
This part also has little hooks!

67 ARI 67
They're even tinier. I hadn't seen
them before!

68 ELINOR 68
THAT'S how it works! It's the tiny
little hooks that make it stick.

They open and close the strap several times. They look closer
and we see the hooks grabbing the loops in action.

69 HAZEL 69
(Examining the fuzzy side
of the strap)
But the hooks need something fuzzy
with little loops to grab, that's
why it only sticks to some things.

Hazel checks her list, and we see the pattern: fur, carpets,
sweaters.

70 ELINOR 70
And it DOESN'T stick to things that
don't have anything for the hooks
to grab!

The kids smile at each other, sharing a feeling of
satisfaction at having solved the puzzle.

71 ELINOR (CONT'D) 71
Let's tell Ms. Mole!

Elinor dashes off back to the playground, followed by Hazel
and then Ari, who flaps to catch up.

5 EXT. PLAYGROUND -- DAY 5

Elinor swooshes down the slide and jumps on the swing,
landing first. Ari flies over and Hazel comes up last,
puffing slightly.

72 ELINOR 72
Ms. Mole, we figured it out!

73 ARI 73
It's the little hooks on one
side...

74 HAZEL 74
That make the strap sticky!

75 ELINOR 75
But it only sticks to things that
are fuzzy and have little loops in
them.

Elinor makes a loop with two fingers and a hook with one finger from the other paw and demonstrates.

76 ELINOR (CONT'D) 76
The hooks grab the loops and stick
together! And then... *skrrrrtch!*

Ms. Mole nods sagely and her nose twitches.

77 MS. MOLE 77
My, I smell some clever little
scientists. I knew you would figure
it out!

Elinor holds up one of the seeds.

78 ELINOR 78
We figured it out from looking at
this spiky seed, like the one you
were... uh, *trying* (she looks
sheepish) to teach us about before.

Elinor sticks the seed to Ari.

79 MS. MOLE 79

That is interesting! The strap and the seed work the same way. Why do you think that is?

Ari gasps in realization.

80 ARI 80
Did the seed COPY the idea from the
watch strap?

Ms. Mole smiles. Hazel's eyes light up.

81 HAZEL 81
I bet the idea for the strap came
from the SEEDS!

82 MS. MOLE 82
That's right!

Ms. Mole opens the same book she was trying to show the kids earlier.

83 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 83
I was just about to tell you the
whole story...

Ms. Mole opens the book to the page we saw earlier, which shows the seed with lots of hooks.

She turns the page to an illustration of Georges de Mistral (the inventor of hook and loop) as a dog character walking in the forest; the picture becomes animated as she explains.

84 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 84
Georges de Mistral loved to go for
walks in the woods, but always came
back with these seeds stuck to his
fur and clothes.

The dog notices the seed burrs sticking to him.

85 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 85
He wondered if he could make the
hooks and loops himself, so that he
could use the same idea to get
OTHER things to stick together.

The dog is in a workshop making the first hook-and-loop prototype.

86 ELINOR 86
Wow. Nature really DOES have some
good ideas, Ms. Mole. We should
learn as much as we can from it!

(Singing)
Into the woods and with the trees,
We can follow our curiosity!

Ms. Mole smiles and winks.

87 MS. MOLE 87
That's right, Elinor. And good for
the three of you for following your
curiosity and learning something!

At that moment, Ari emerges from the bushes, completely covered in seed burrs from head to toe. Hazel is startled.

88 ARI 88
Yeah, you could say we really STUCK
with it!

They all laugh.

END.